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Winnipeg metro

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MISSING AND MURDERED...
metroNEWS p.10

Trudeau PROMISES TRACKER
PART V
GENDER PARITY
TAXATION
REFUGEES
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INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, OCT. 30-NOV. 1, 2015

High 9°C /Low 4°C Mainly cloudy

GEEK CHIC

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Star Trek actor Garrett Wang took in the CMHR Thursday before getting ready for this weekend's Central Canada Comic Con

metroNEWS

Exploitation tip line opens

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Human trafficking increases around sporting events, says province

Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

The Grey Cup Festival is a month away, and the province says along with that event will come a rise in sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

On Thursday the province said as Winnipeg gets set to host this year's Grey Cup game, they will set up a toll-free hotline and launch a public awareness campaign to support human trafficking victims, and prevent trafficking from happening.

"It's a sad reality that sexual exploitation and human trafficking often increase in the days leading up to major sporting events," said Justice Minister Gord Mackintosh.

"This hotline will be a lifeline for victims who need help to escape exploitation."

As part of the Manitoba Sporting Events Safety Working Group (MSESWG) the province will fund an awareness campaign called Buying Sex is Not a Sport in the weeks leading up to the Nov. 29 Grey Cup.

Alaya McIvor, 32, is a member of MSESWG and said she has been exploited since she was a child sent to live in Winnipeg from a northern community.

"I was 12 years old when I was first recruited," said McIvor. "I was put on a Greyhound bus and immediately victimized outside the Winnipeg bus depot."

McIvor was exploited until she was 29, and said she now uses her story as a teaching tool. "I no longer see myself as a victim, but I see myself as a survivor."

For help, information or resources people can call the Human Trafficking Hotline toll-free at 1-844-333-2211.

metro
More coverage on p. 4

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Stephen Harper's cats packing up to move out of 24 Sussex Drive. **Canada**

SHOAL LAKE 40 FIRST NATION

Petition seeks cash for reserve road

More than 3,100 people have signed a petition so far asking that Winnipeg politicians make good on a commitment to help build a road for a reserve cut off by an aqueduct that provides fresh water to the city.

The petition was started over concerns that the city is backing away from its promise to fund one-third of the construction of an estimated $30-million, all-weather road for the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

The reserve —on the Manitoba-Ontario boundary — was cut off from the mainland a century ago during construction of the aqueduct and has been under one of the longest boil-water advisories in Canada.

> **We're not demonizing anybody. We're just showing that the public cares about the issue.**
>
> Steve Bell

Its plight became an issue during the recent federal election campaign. Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair promised to pay Ottawa's share of the road.

Manitoba's NDP government has indicated its share of the construction costs will be in the provincial budget.

Christian musician Steve Bell started the petition and said the city doesn't appear prepared to put money for the project in its budget this year. If that doesn't happen, any construction will be delayed, he said.

"The road design will be done in January. Everybody knows that. We want funds in place so that building can begin right away," said Bell, who added the muddy terrain requires some winter work.

"We're not demonizing anybody. We're just showing that the public cares about the issue."

Public pressure to construct what has been dubbed Freedom Road by reserve residents has been growing from business leaders, politicians, artists and activists. The former federal Conservative government helped fund a design study, but stopped short of promising to help pay for construction.

Mayor Brian Bowman co-wrote a letter to the federal government in April to ask the Conservatives to firm up their commitment.

Bowman said the city continues to support construction of the road and said there will be "continued support." But he stopped short of promising a line item in this year's budget.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Youth open up on pot smoking habits

DRUGS

Goal of study is to curb use of marijuana

Danelle Cloutier
For Metro | Winnipeg

The Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse took to Winnipeg streets to find out what teens think about pot.

The organization held focus groups with participants ages 14 to 19 on Wednesday and Thursday at the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba.

The participants were asked why youth choose to use or not use the drug, how it changes a person and how marijuana use among youth can be prevented. They weren't asked about their specific experiences with pot and didn't have to answer any questions that made them uncomfortable, said organizers.

In order to be considered for the study though, teens had to and fill out a short private online survey and disclose whether they have used marijuana or not. Kids under age 16 also had to get parental consent.

One teen, who asked not to be identified, said his peers don't think there's anything wrong with pot.

"Most guys I know, they think its fine," said the 16-year-old. "I think it's fine, I think it's better to smoke up than get drunk or (use) smokes."

However, the CCSA said they believe the drug may harm development in adolescents. The organization also says that chronic use is associated with thinking difficulties and could increase the risk of mental health issues.

Winnipeg teens were asked about their attitudes towards marijuana this week. THINKSTOCK

48%

In 2013, 48 per cent of Canadians aged 15 to 24 used cannabis in the past year compared to 8 per cent of adults aged 25 and older.
SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

The study in Winnipeg is part of a cross-Canada study with the goal of developing initiatives to stop young Canadians from using the drug.

The results of this study will be used in the coming months to update the 2013 report, "What Canadian Youth Think about Cannabis."

CCSA is also conduction a five-part marijuana research series called Clearing the Smoke on Cannabis to study the cognitive effects of the drug on mental health, breathing, pregnancy and driving.

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Sports events don't push up sex trafficking: Group

HUMAN RIGHTS

But police say potential exists when city gets influx of people

Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

A group that works with local sex trade workers says there is no proof cases of sexual exploitation and victimization go up during major sporting events, and no reason to think they will go up during next month's Grey Cup in Winnipeg.

The Winnipeg Working Group for Sex Workers' Rights (Winnipeg Working Group) said human trafficking and sexual exploitation rising around major sporting events is a "mistaken belief."

The group claims the new Manitoba Sporting Events Safety Working Group (MSESWG) is being funded by the province "to address an issue that does not exist."

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women investigated the issue of sex trafficking at major sporting events, and the Winnipeg Working Group said the report looked at two World Cups, three Super Bowls, and two Olympic Games.

"Despite media hype and police enthusiasm, there was no evidence that large sporting events increase trafficking for prostitution," said Winnipeg Working Group in a press release.

The province will spend $23,000 on their "Buying Sex is Not a Sport" campaign leading up to the Nov. 29 Grey Cup.

Sgt. Cam Mackid of the Winnipeg Police counter-exploitation unit said the Winnipeg Police have no statistics that can prove sexual exploitation goes up during large sporting events in Winnipeg.

"We don't have any hard data because of the hidden nature of the sex trade," said Mackid, "It's tough to quantify, but based on our experience I think it's a reasonable assumption that there certainly is the potential for an increase.

"I think in Winnipeg the thinking is that with any influx of people there certainly exists the potential for an increase in human trafficking."

Healthy Living Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross was asked if there are statistics that prove human trafficking goes up during major sporting events, and although she could not provide hard statistics, she did say she knows of some examples.

"There are statistics that were provided to us from the FIFA World Cup in Brazil and from the Super Bowl in Arizona last year, so it is known," said Irvin-Ross. "Yes, there is a trend that happens. We want to stop that trend from happening."

Sexual exploitation victim Alaya McIvor says she has no doubt the Grey Cup will see an increase in exploitation in Winnipeg.

"When these games do come next month the Internet is going to be exploding with exploitation," said McIvor.

Alaya McIvor, a victim of sexual exploitation, believes the upcoming Grey Cup will bring an increase in sex victimization to the city. DAVE BAXTER/METRO

NEW WEST PARTNERSHIP

Trade deal could exclude Manitoba firms

Manitoba companies could be shut out of some contracts in other western provinces under a regional trade deal that stops at the Saskatchewan boundary.

Some Saskatchewan Crown corporations have started stating explicitly in contact offers — for items ranging from trucks to fencing — that bids may be limited to provinces who have signed on to the New West Partnership Trade Agreement.

Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia set up the agreement, which is aimed at reducing barriers to trade and investment, in 2010. Manitoba has not joined in, despite pleas from business leaders.

"Some of our members have done a great deal of work in Saskatchewan over the last five years, and we'd be very concerned if the rules change such that they weren't permitted to work across the border," Ron Hambley, president of the 700-member Winnipeg Construction Association, said Thursday.

Saskatchewan started aggressively promoting the new approach last month, when it listed seven Crown corporations that will "primarily" purchase from jurisdictions in the partnership.

Hambley is worried Alberta and B.C. will adopt similar restrictions and would like to see Manitoba join the trade deal.

He would also like the Manitoba NDP government to challenge Saskatchewan's rules. He said they appear to violate the Agreement on Internal Trade, which covers all provinces and territories.

The Saskatchewan government has said some Crown corporations are exempt from the national trade agreement, including SaskPower.

The Manitoba government had considered joining the New West agreement in 2010. Instead, the province is focusing on a mandatory renewal of the national trade deal due by next March.

"We are in the centre of the country and we want to make sure that people understand that we are going to work equally as close with our western neighbours as we are with our eastern and southern and northern," said Jobs and the Economy Minister Kevin Chief.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

POLITICS

Selinger rebel gets job with union

A former Manitoba health minister who challenged Premier Greg Selinger and ran unsuccessfully in the federal election has a new job.

Erin Selby will start next week as a negotiator for one of the province's largest unions — Local 832 of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

Selby was one of five ministers who questioned Selinger's leadership last year and stepped down from cabinet.

She supported another rebel minister, Theresa Oswald, in a leadership contest that Selinger survived by a mere 33 votes.

Selby resigned her legislature seat in September to run for the federal NDP in St. Boniface-St. Vital, where she finished third.

Selby's new employer represents more than 15,000 workers in Manitoba, and its president, Jeff Traeger, endorsed Selinger during the leadership race.

Selby declined an interview request Thursday and directed questions to Traeger, who was not immediately available for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUBLIC WARNING

Phone scam fakes police union

The Winnipeg Police Association (WPA) is warning Winnipeggers of a phone scam targeting Winnipeggers.

Winnipeg Police say people in the city are getting calls to support a WPA charity.

The caller describes a partnership that doesn't exist and asks people to donate money, which police said won't go to anyone affiliated with the WPA.

The WPA says it never asks for funds from the general public for charitable organizations.

The Winnipeg Police are asking anyone who has received this call or a similar call to file a police report.

METRO

ILLEGAL HUNTING

Five arrested for hunting at night near Barrows

Five Manitoba men have been charged with night hunting.

Last week, Conservation officers were patrolling near Barrows, north of Swan River.

They spotted a slow-moving vehicle shining a spotlight into a field around 11 p.m.

The three people inside were arrested, while the truck, a rifle, ammunition and other hunting accessories were seized.

A couple of hours later, officers spotted another vehicle doing the same thing and arrested two more people.

Night-light hunting and hunting on private property are illegal.

Manitoba Conservation's Jack Harrigan said night hunting is not as common as it was in the 1980s, but it still happens.

METRO

Winnipeg's supply of homes outpaces demand, says the CMHC. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Housing market overvalued: CMHC

ECONOMICS

Report warns of possible 'correction' of home prices

A growing number of Canadian housing markets are overvalued, either because the cost of buying a home has ballooned or underlying economic conditions don't support current prices, according to a new report from the federal housing agency.

In its latest housing market assessment report released Thursday, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. has identified 11 markets where it has found evidence of overvaluation.

Those markets include Winnipeg.

That's up from the eight markets the federal agency deemed as being overvalued in its last quarterly report in August.

CMHC says it has found strong evidence of problematic conditions in Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Regina. All four of those markets show signs of overvaluation, according to the agency, and in Toronto, price acceleration is also present.

Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Regina show signs of overbuilding, which occurs when the supply of homes outpaces demand, in addition to being overvalued.

In some markets, notably Toronto and Vancouver, overvaluation reflects the fact that home prices have been climbing rapidly, said CMHC chief economist Bob Dugan.

In others, like the oil-price dependent markets of Regina, Saskatoon and Calgary, it's because underlying economic and demographic factors needed to sustain current home prices — such as personal disposable incomes, mortgage rates and population growth — have deteriorated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FACTORS

The agency uses four factors to identify the level of risk present in Canadian real estate nationally and in 15 markets: accelerating price growth, overvaluation of prices, overbuilding and overheating of demand, which occurs when demand significantly outstrips supply.

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Canadian rock band Hedley will play the MTS Centre on May 7. GETTY IMAGES

CONCERTS

Hedley to rock city

Juno award-winning rockers Hedley are coming to Winnipeg after having had to cancel a show this summer.

The band will play May 7 at MTS Centre as part of their coast-to-coast 2016 Canadian arena tour, in support of their sixth studio album, Hello. Pop starlet Carly Rae Jepsen, and pop and R&B star Francesco Yates will also perform at the show.

"We're about to unveil the most spectacular tour we've ever embarked upon," said Hedley frontman Jacob Hoggard. "We can't wait to connect with each and every one of our fans."

The group was set to play at Assiniboine Park in the summer but a massive storm forced the show's cancellation.

Tickets for the Winnipeg show go on sale Friday, Nov. 6, at livenation.com, and the band said people can check out their website for Oct. 30 pre-sale details. METRO

PORTAGE PLACE

SAFE TRICK-OR-TREAT

October 31st from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm,
kids accompanied by their parents, are welcome to visit participating businesses for some special Halloween treats.

Participating merchants will have orange and black balloons outside their stores to let parents and their children know that they have Halloween treats (while supplies last).

Have a safe and happy Halloween!!

VISIT PORTAGEPLACE.MB.CA FOR DETAILS

Séan McCann, formerly of Great Big Sea, brings his You Know I Love You cross-country tour to Winnipeg next week. DAVE HOWELL

McCann to Sea the 'Peg

BACKSTAGE PASS

Former Great Big Sea rocker on solo tour

Jared Story
Metro | Winnipeg

Séan McCann is no longer lost at sea.

It's been two years since McCann announced his departure from Great Big Sea, the Newfoundland folk-rock band he co-founded in 1993. In that time, McCann has opened up about being sexually abused as a teen, his struggle with alcoholism and the dissolution of his relationship with Great Big Sea.

He's also managed to make music, a lot of it.

In January 2014, McCann released Help Your Self, an album produced by Canadian rock musician and fellow Maritimer Joel Plaskett.

McCann is currently touring the country in support of his second post-GBS release, You Know I Love You. The album, which features a song book with artwork by Meaghan Smith, was once again produced by Plaskett.

McCann, 48, said You Know I Love You is the consequence of a clear head.

"Help Your Self still had some jagged edges, some turbulence," said McCann, who is almost four years sober.

"I don't believe you can achieve true happiness unless you can acknowledge and accept the darkness in your life. I was living a lie and pretending I didn't have any issues or problems, which prevented me from having a true sense of happiness. Now that I've owned that darkness, I'm able to feel so much more."

While McCann is proud of his contribution to Great Big Sea, he says his heart wasn't always in singing sea shanties.

"Spinning through the same set list for 15 years, I didn't do that because I wanted to, I did that for money," McCann said. "For me it was a really superficial, very insincere place to be and I never felt comfortable there. I ultimately couldn't drink enough to stay there because I would have died."

McCann, who recently moved from The Rock to Ottawa with his wife and two young sons, says the positive feedback he's received from his fans has "validated the changes" he's made in his life.

"I like being on the road again, in smaller rooms and in theatres," McCann said. "I will never miss being on a bus with 10 dudes, moving from hockey rink to hockey rink. I made a lot more money then, but I'm still alive now, and I'd rather stay that way."

Séan McCann plays at the Park Theatre on Wednesday, Nov. 4. Tickets are $25 and Showtime is 8 p.m.

> **"I like being on the road again, in smaller rooms**
> Séan McCann

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5 HAUNTS FOR AN EXTRA-SPOOKY HALLOWEEN

Manitoba has its share of spooky places, but there are a few that even the locals may not know about. Here are five to check out this Halloween weekend, courtesy of local researcher Chris Rutkowski. They are described in his book Unnatural History: True Manitoba Mysteries.

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

1 Old Man Gimli

Kids at camps throughout the Interlake are often told stories of Old Man Gimli, who wanders the bush along Lake Winnipeg for macabre purposes. One tale is that travellers who stopped their car along the highway north of town were shocked to see a dark, brooding figure leap out and grab onto their rear bumper before falling away.

2 Marlborough Hotel

This stately old building has a reputation as a place where people hear footsteps in empty rooms and see apparitions of past patrons of the hotel. One particular ghost said to inhabit it is that of Grace Edith Cook, a 16-year-old waitress who was strangled to death in her room on the 5th floor in 1943. Employees and patrons of the hotel report seeing Cook's ghost still roaming the halls.

3 White Horse of the Prairie

Along the Trans-Canada Highway near St. Francois Xavier is a statue of a white horse. It's one of the few monuments in the world depicting a ghost: The story is that hundreds of years ago, a maiden escaped into the night with her lover astride a beautiful white horse given as a gift from her betrothed, whom she was to marry the next day. They were pursued and killed, but the horse ran off and its ghost has been said to roam the prairie ever since.

4 Spook Light

Legend has it that if you wait after 11 any night, just south of Hwy. 203 east of Winnipeg, you'll see the Woodridge Spook Light dancing at the end of the road along the railway line. Seen as early as the 1930s, it is said to be a lantern carried by the headless ghost of a man who was killed by a train years ago.

5 Mother Tucker's

The building at 335 Donald St. was built in 1895 as the Masonic Temple, at a cost of $22,000. The Masons sold it in 1969 and it became home to Mother Tucker's restaurant until the 1990s, when it converted into a sports bar and then a nightclub. While home to Mother Tucker's, employees and patrons claimed to hear mysterious footsteps and voices, and cutlery and table settings placed carefully would be inexplicably moved overnight. It has been vacant for about 10 years.

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Former Star Trek: Voyager actor Garrett Wang poses in the Garden of Contemplation at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on Thursday. ELISHA DACEY/METRO

Actor's Trek to Winnipeg

CELEBRITIES

Garrett Wang in town for Central Canada Comic Con

Danelle Cloutier
For Metro | Winnipeg

Actor Garrett Wang wants racial equality as much as Ensign Harry Kim wanted to get back to Earth on Star Trek: Voyager.

Wang, who played Kim on the TV series, will be signing autographs in Winnipeg at Central Canada Comic Con (C4) from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1.

But beforehand, he the Canadian Museum for Human Rights Thursday, in part because racial prejudice is a big reason why he wanted to be an actor.

"For me, I just wanted to be able to portray a non-stereotypical character on TV that will maybe keep some other kid in the deep south, some Asian kid or a Latino kid or any person of colour, from being abused," he said.

Growing up in Memphis, Tenn., Wang said every day, people would go out of their way to be racist towards him.

"I told the guys at Star Trek that my most important concern is that I want to make sure that my character is StarFleet first, and Asian second."

He said he thinks his role as Harry Kim on Star Trek: Voyager did make a difference, judging by the experience his two younger cousins had growing up in the same city. "How many times did you get called a name or were you a target of a racial epithet or were you discriminated against? They both went, 'never,'" Wang said. "So I did help!"

On the lighter side, Wang is a pescaterian foodie and you might catch him this weekend at Boon Burger. Or, he might go back to Stella's Café and Bakery, which he visited in 2010 for C4. "Oh God, that was good food. I enjoyed that."

After the series ended in 2001, Wang took a break from Hollywood to do some cameos. His most recent project was a film called Unbelievable!!!!!, a parody of science fiction movies from the 1950s and 60s.

> **I told the guys at Star Trek that my most important concern is that I want to make sure that my character is Star Fleet first and Asian second.**
> Garrett Wang

ENTERTAINMENT

Odysseo brings in the record crowds

The producers of Cavalia's Odysseo say they brought in record-breaking crowds during their eight weeks in Winnipeg, and are now going to give back to the city.

Odysseo brought in a "record-breaking" 100,000 spectators during 55 shows over the course of eight weeks in Winnipeg, said Cavalia in a statement.

On Thursday, Odysseo announced they will give $10,000 each to Sistema Winnipeg and The Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation.

Sistema Winnipeg is an intensive after-school music education program run by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra that focuses on children with the fewest resources and greatest need.

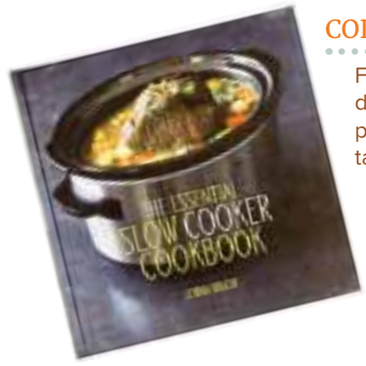
Members of Sistema Winnipeg also got the chance to do a special performance on the Odysseo stage prior to the start of the show on Wednesday evening.

The Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation is the charitable arm of the Winnipeg Jets.

Performances of Cavalia's Odysseo will continue until Sunday.

METRO

Cavalia's Odysseo donated $10,000 each to Sistema Winnipeg and The Winnipeg Jets True North Foundation.
CONTRIBUTED



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The search for answers

Each day this week, Metro is taking an in-depth look at some of the immediate items on prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau's to-do list. Today, we examine his pledge to launch a national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

A vigil takes place in March on Parliament Hill for Loretta Saunders, a young Inuk woman who was murdered in February 2014. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

After years of pressure on the federal government to call an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women, the newly elected Liberals have promised one.

Nearly 1,200 indigenous women were murdered or went missing between 1980 and 2012, according to an RCMP report released last year.

Supporters for a national inquiry include the provincial and territorial premiers, aboriginal groups and the United Nations.

The Liberal platform promises to "immediately launch" a national public inquiry, which would "seek recommendations on concrete actions that governments, law enforcement and others can take to solve these crimes and prevent future ones."

At his news conference the day after the election last week, prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau didn't provide a specific timeline for an inquiry but said he wanted to "get moving on this quickly."

Dawn Harvard, president of the Native Women's Association of Canada, said consultations with the necessary people must start right away, but the inquiry itself shouldn't be rushed into.

"The initial process needs to start right away, but that initial process itself can take a significant amount of time just in order to make sure we get it right," Harvard said.

Any successful inquiry requires consultations with aboriginal women and their families, the larger aboriginal leadership and other relevant groups to establish the process and scope of the inquiry, she said. It's particularly important that the families of the victims have a leading role, she said.

"We're only going to get one shot at this, and we need to make sure that we have all the key voices being heard at the table to make sure we get as comprehensive a picture as possible."

That process should start as soon as cabinet is named Nov. 4, when establishing an inquiry will be a priority for the new aboriginal affairs minister.

While in government, the Conservatives resisted calls for a national inquiry, saying there had already been more than 40 studies on the matter and that it is action that is needed.

There are also fears that an inquiry won't necessarily lead to action. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in the 1990s took five years, cost more than $50 million and the more than 440 recommendations it produced mostly went unheeded.

Trudeau PROMISES TRACKER

PART V

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Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau poses for a photo with a student while touring Mohawk College, in Hamilton, Ont., on Oct. 14. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Students lobby government

LIBERALS

Youth voter turnout up by about 10 per cent since 2011

Student groups say young voters — a group that typically registers some of the lowest turnout levels in the country — cast more ballots in last week's federal election than they did four years ago.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations estimates that youth voter turnout was up by about 10 per cent since 2011, based on consultations with member campuses.

The exact number won't be known until Elections Canada releases detailed breakdowns of voter turnout in the coming months.

Elections Canada numbers show 70,231 people came out to special offices set up on 38 campuses during a four-day stretch prior to advance voting, which took place over the Thanksgiving long weekend.

The offices were established as part of a pilot project to get more students out to vote.

The Canadian Federation of Students said the wait time at some campuses was as long as an hour: More than 400 students crammed the special office on the Ryerson University campus in downtown Toronto on the Wednesday before the long weekend, while Memorial University in St. John's saw 1,100 students line up out the door on the last day the office was open.

CFS national chairperson Bilan Arte said the numbers help to undermine the reputation of young people as politically apathetic.

> **We need to make sure that the Trudeau government not only does what it said it would do, but actually goes beyond that**
>
> Bilan Arte

The figures have emboldened student groups to lobby the incoming Liberal government to make it easier to pay for post-secondary school and to create jobs for young people upon graduation.

Viviane Bartlett, CASA interim executive director, said students believed they had their voices heard during the election and her group "will be here to ensure the government continues to listen during their four-year mandate."

The Liberals have made sweeping promises to make it easier for students to pay for school and to get a job upon graduation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Advocacy groups say federal assisted-death panel should be disbanded

A three-member federal panel on doctor-assisted death should be disbanded, two advocacy groups say.

Dying with Dignity Canada and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association put forward Thursday a blueprint with recommendations for leadership on physician-assisted death, including a call for the panel to halt its work.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RAIF BADAWI

Saudi blogger wins top EU rights prize

A Saudi blogger sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes for insulting Muslim clerics has won the European Union's prestigious Sakharov Prize for human rights.

Raif Badawi, who has lived in Quebec's Eastern Townships region since 2013 with his wife and children, was honoured with the award as a symbol of the fight for freedom of speech — an announcement greeted with a standing ovation Thursday at the European Parliament assembly in Strasbourg, France.

"I urge the king of Saudi Arabia to free him, so he can accept the prize," Parliament President Martin Schulz said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ensaf Haidar stands next to a poster of a book of articles written by the imprisoned Saudi blogger and Haidar's husband, Raif Badawi, on June 16, 2015 in Montreal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Harper's cats pack up, too

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Goodbye kitty: Stanley, Gypsy and chinchilla on the move

Stephen Harper is a goner — and his cats aren't coming back.

The outgoing prime minister has long been known to have a fondness for felines — indeed, prior to being elected in 2006, Harper quipped he was like one himself, because of his many political lives.

And as he prepares to begin anew as a member of the Tory backbench, so too are his cats preparing for a new life of their own. Stanley and Gypsy — along with Charlie, a pet chinchilla — are all moving out of 24 Sussex Drive to live with the Harper family at their new permanent digs in Calgary.

What's more, the many foster-animal friends living at the prime minister's official residence before the election found new homes in the summer.

The Harpers have fostered dozens of cats, as well as a number of other small animals. Eventually, they devoted an entire upstairs room to the cause.

Harper's wife Laureen was a prominent volunteer for the Ottawa Humane Society, among other things acting as the honorary chair for the organization's annual gala, the Fur Ball.

"She's been tremendous; some years she's been our most active foster volunteer," Bruce Roney, the executive director of the Ottawa Humane Society, said in a statement.

The Harpers' fondness for cats is well-documented, going as far back as their wedding where two felines were part of the party, one in a bow tie and one in a lace collar.

Mayor Jim Watson joins Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, with pet cats at the opening of the Ottawa Humane Society in 2011. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The death of a former cat, Cartier, was even noted by Sen. Mike Duffy in his prolific diaries that form part of the evidence in his criminal trial.

But Charlie the Chinchilla was especially prominent in the family's later political years — he was featured in the family's 2013 Christmas card and also starred in a YouTube video.

The Trudeau family isn't moving into 24 Sussex when Trudeau officially becomes prime minister next week, citing the need to be briefed on the building's condition first.

The risk of political repercussions has for decades prompted the heritage building's various residents to defer badly needed renovations, said to carry a price tag of well over $10 million.

Whether the presence of so many animals inside the home over the last nine years has contributed to the need for repairs wasn't something the National Capital Commission, which manages the property, would say. THE CANADIAN PRESS

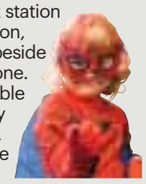
MORE POLITICS

Conservative MP Deepak Obhrai king of his caucus

Deepak Obhrai will helm the Conservative party caucus for the party's first post-election, post-Harper meeting next week. MPs are expected to vote on their interim leader, caucus chair, and whether to endow themselves with more powers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HALLOWEEN NOTES

SpiderMable saves the day in Edmonton - again



The scene: two children lost at a transit station in Edmonton, standing beside a help-phone. Spider-Mable asks if they need help, presses the button, asks for help and it comes! The media event was a chance to talk Halloween safety and gave Mable, battling cancer, another chance to show her heroic side.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prof looks at what makes ghost hunters tick

Simon Fraser University geography prof Paul Kingsbury is embarking on a four-year research project to understand paranormal researchers. He will join supernatural investigators at a Vancouver-area heritage building this Halloween. "What we're finding so far is that people join paranormal-investigation groups because they've had profound paranormal experiences," he said.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HILL TOP RESEARCH

Presidential candidate alleges electoral fraud

HAITI

Supporters say they found partially burned ballots

One of Haiti's top presidential candidates charged Thursday that ballots checked with his name have been destroyed or discarded, prompting small groups of supporters to burn tire barricades in a few sections of the capital.

Former Sen. Moise Jean-Charles, candidate of the Petit Dessalines faction, is considered one of a few major contenders out of the 54 hopefuls who appeared on the presidential ballot in Sunday's first-round elections. The two top finishers are expected to compete in a Dec. 27 runoff.

With official preliminary results still days away, tire-burning supporters of Jean-Charles said they discovered partially burned ballots Thursday behind the concrete wall of a home in the Port-au-Prince neighbourhood of Delmas 41. The candidate insisted that numerous ballots supporting his bid had gone missing elsewhere.

Without discussing specifics or presenting evidence, Jean-Charles told reporters at a news conference that there was also a plot at a tabulation centre in Port-au-Prince to prevent votes in his favour from being entered into computers.

"This is going to lead to political turmoil," he warned, prompting cheers from about three dozen backers gathered at a school.

The tabulation warehouse is under guard by police and UN peacekeepers and Haitian electoral workers are monitored by a rotating cast of international observers. Although it is prohibited for results to be released by anyone other than the Provisional Electoral Council, Jean-Charles' camp released its own calculations from Sunday's vote after reviewing 85 per cent of the returns. He insisted Thursday that he dominated voting in half of Haiti's 10 departments and accused the government-backed candidate's team of trying to steal the election.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A supporter of presidential candidate Moise Jean-Charles, of the Platform Pitit Dessalines political party, sets fire to a tire during a protest in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Manitoba government is holding a series of World Cafés across the province to help in the development of a strategy that will promote positive mental health early on and provide effective supports and services for those children, youth and families who need them.

Make yourself heard – You're invited to join this discussion and share your opinions.

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China to allow two children per couple

POPULATION

Decision ends unpopular one-child rule after 35 years

China said Thursday it would allow all married couples to have two children, signalling the end after 35 years to its drastic and unpopular "one-child" policy that has been blamed for skewing the gender balance, forcing women into unwanted abortions and bringing about a rapidly aging workforce.

The decision was the most significant easing of strict population policies that were long considered some of the ruling Communist Party's most onerous intrusions into family life and had been gradually relaxed in recent years.

Many rural families and some urban ones were already able to have two children.

The news elated 36-year-old Su Weihua of Guangzhou, who said she now plans to get pregnant next year and that she is eager for her eight-year-old daughter to have a sibling.

"I have looked forward to this for so many years — even had dreams about it! I cried every time when I woke up and realized it wasn't yet true. I thought it was so unfair," Su said.

The party's Central Committee said in a statement that the decision was "to improve the balanced development of population" and to deal with an aging population.

The move may not spur a huge baby boom, however, in part because fertility rates are believed to be declining even without the policy's enforcement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Chinese woman plays with her grandchild at the Ritan Park in Beijing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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HILL TOP RESEARCH

GREECE

Locals rush in to rescue migrants

An autumn chill had set in when the wooden boat, packed with families from Syria and Iraq, set out on the short crossing from Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos and the promise of a new life in Europe.

Partway across, it capsized, triggering a scene of panic, confusion — and compassion — in a dramatic rescue.

A Greek Coast Guard vessel sped to the site of the latest migrant catastrophe on Europe's doorstep.

So did an array of volunteers, including Spanish lifeguards and Turkish fishermen, who crammed dozens of distraught people onto the decks of their small boats.

The Greek Coast Guard said 242 people were rescued in the operation Wednesday night, including at least 18 children.

At least seven people died, and more than 30 are missing.

So far this year, more than 300,000 migrants have reached the island of Lesbos.

Manolis Galanakis, a local fisherman, said the actions of people smugglers who loaded the boats were "a crime against humanity."

"They just get money to put those people on boats to be dead," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Syrian refugee rests after arriving at the port of Piraeus from Lesbos on Thursday. THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. POLITICS

Rubio, Bush trade jabs in third Republican debate

Marco Rubio bid forcefully for control of the Republican Party's establishment wing in Wednesday night's third GOP debate, deflecting jabs from Jeb Bush, who sought to right his floundering campaign.

Insurgent outsiders Donald Trump and Ben Carson at times faded to the background during the two-hour contest.

Bush targeted Rubio for his spotty voting record on Capitol Hill.

"Marco, when you signed up for this, this was a six-year term and you should be showing up for work," said Bush. "You can campaign, or just resign and let someone else take the job."

Rubio sharply dismissed Bush's critique as a political ploy by a struggling candidate.

"The only reason you're doing it is that we're running for the same position and someone has convinced you that attacking me will help you," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Quebec gives billion-dollar lifeline to Bombardier
Bombardier says $1-billion US from the Quebec government will help complete development of the CSeries and restore customer faith in the delayed and costly commercial jet program. The Montreal-based company lost US$4.9 billion, tied mostly to large write-downs in the CSeries and abandoned Learjet 85, along with operating results that were substantially below already low expectations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teen kicked off soccer team over fish feud
A soccer club on northern Vancouver Island has red carded a 14-year-old girl, barring her from playing on an elite team in a dispute about a sponsorship deal with a salmon-farming company. The Upper Island Riptide club announced Thursday it could not reconcile its differences with Freyja Reed and, as a result, had "parted ways" with the teen goalkeeper.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Adrienne Connelly of Hamilton (above) and Holly Myers of Portland, Oregon, sew bras during a bra-making class with Beverly Johnson at her Bra-Makers Supply in Hamilton on Oct. 14.
PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bra-making biz supports new careers

LINGERIE

School a global attraction for amateurs and professionals

Sophie Ndala has watched her mother wrestle with ill-fitting lingerie her whole life and painstakingly alter oversize bras that nonetheless dug into her shoulders and provided little support.

With bra shopping a bust in their home country of South Africa, Ndala travelled thousands of kilometres to southern Ontario to learn how to help her mother — and maybe start a business herself.

She enrolled at Bra-Makers Supply in Hamilton, a sewing store and custom lingerie school that has grown into an international attraction for both amateurs and professionals.

For nearly two decades, the store's owner and self-described "fairy bra mother" Beverly Johnson has shown women — and the occasional man — how to handcraft bras that fit bodies of various shapes and sizes using her own patterns.

Johnson, 62, launched the school — one of the only programs of its kind — after years of leading workshops across Canada and around the world.

Between her in-person lessons and new online courses, Johnson estimates she's taught more than 30,000 people to make beautiful and supportive bras. Some have gone on to start their own businesses or teach lingerie-making themselves in stores such as The Make Den in west-end Toronto.

A recent weeklong master class on plus-size bras saw Ndala create a pale blue prototype to take home to her mother — who has large breasts but a petite frame — and replicate. If the undergarment fits, Ndala said she plans to start sewing some for others.

Several of her classmates already have their own lingerie lines and turned to Johnson to hone their skills.

"I really want to hit the mastectomy market," said Holly Myers, a custom bra-maker based in Portland, Ore.

"One of my aunts had breast cancer several years back and I'm also a Pilates instructor, that's kind of my first career, and I have quite a few clients who have mastectomies as well ... and they always complain about not being able to find cute bras and cute swimwear."

The school, which operates in the back of the shop, offers a range of classes from a $225 two-day introductory course to a $600 five-day "boob camp" and lessons in swimwear and corsetry. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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COMICS BROUGHT TO LIFE

He's a comic book writer and artist by day, and a hunter by, well, in between work. Mike Grell's life has long influenced the characters in his work, including Green Arrow, Green Lantern, Warlord and Jon Sable. Hunting is just one example.

"Sable is probably the closest to me of any of the characters," says Grell. Sable, who appeared in a comic book and television series, and novel, has a background in professional hunting in Africa. "I've hunted Africa a couple of times. I once spent 18 nights in a tree trying to ambush a leopard," says Grell.

He started hunting because his dad did while he was growing up in northern Wisconsin. "If your dad didn't hunt, you didn't eat."

And when Grell's family was struggling to eat at all, his mom jumped in. "My mom was a strong lady who didn't hesitate to go out and get a job when our family was struggling in the 1950s."

Grell credits his mom for his firm beliefs in equal rights. "I always considered myself to be something of a male chauvinistic feminist," he says with a laugh.

His beliefs come through The Warlord series and Starslayer, which both featured male protagonists but the women ultimately became the guiding force in the stories. "They had more to do with the real world of the story than the hero whose job was to swing his sword and chop the monsters in half. I always liked that," he says.

MORE FUN AT C4

- After party on Oct. 30: Ain't No Party Like A Time Lord Party at the After Dark Lounge at 7 p.m. $5 cover.
- Industry Night Reception on Oct. 30: At the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg's Pan Am Room at 8 p.m. Community Awards will be presented to those actively giving back to the comic book, art and convention community. $40 tickets.
- After party on Oct. 31: A Bloody Good Time at the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg's Pan Am Room at 7 p.m. $5 cover.
- Family Day on Nov. 1: Events start at 10 a.m. and include a safe trick-or-treat and a kids costume contest.

For the first time, Grell will be talking, signing and sketching at Central Canada Comic Con (C4), which runs from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1 at the RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg.

Grell will be joined by an impressive roster of famous artists and guests, including artist Neal Adams of Batman and the X-Men; actors Robert Picardo, Gates McFadden and Garrett Wang of Star Trek; and voice actors Sean Schemmel of Dragon Ball Z and Veronica Taylor of Pokémon.

For the full list of guests and events, visit c4winnipeg.com.

Mike Grell. CONTRIBUTED

CONTRIBUTED

C4 puts Winnipeg on the Comic Con map

DENNIS SCULLARD PHOTOGRAPHY

This weekend is one of few times where you can not only dress up as your favourite super hero, super villain or pop culture character — you can also meet him or her.

As always, this year Central Canada Comic Con (C4) has an impressive lineup of famous guests, including Sylvester McCoy, the seventh incarnation of the doctor on Doctor Who, James Marsters, Spike of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and David Yost and Walter Jones of the original Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, just to name a few.

But for Crowbar Radio host Kid Remington, who also hosts the costume contest at C4, the fellow Comic Con-goers are just as much as a draw as the big-name guests and artists.

"It surprises me how you always meet new, awesome people," says Remington.

C4 is a big draw for people across the continent because people in Winnipeg are big into costuming. "Winnipeg's pretty special," says Remington, who has gone to Comic Cons across North America. "Every city and town has conventions but it's the costuming abilities of the Winnipeggers that's been heralded around Western Canada," he says.

Remington highly suggests dressing up, not only because it's fun to suit up as Batman, Galactus, or Elsa from Frozen, but because it creates a community. "When you get a costume, you get totally wrapped up in the whole community of it all. It's quite overwhelming," he says. "You could be on a transit bus with 25 other people who love Doctor Who and you'd never know," he says. "Then you get to the convention and you can tell by the costumes well they love Doctor Who and you all get together and you're friends and it's something you would have never taken a chance on in real life."

Thanks to a dedicated team of organizers and volunteers, and the creative Comic Congoers, C4 has put Winnipeg on the Comic Con map.

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FACE OFF

Which voting system should Canada use?

Within 18 months of taking office, prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau has promised federal electoral reform. But what are our choices? Four experts weigh in.

OPTION 1 Single Transferable Vote

How it works: Each riding has multiple seats (perhaps five), and every voter ranks candidates first to last. Each person's vote counts initially toward their first choice and, as votes are counted and candidates either win or are eliminated, the vote is transferred to the voters' next-most-favourite candidate until there are five candidates left standing.
Where it's used: Ireland, Malta

CHAMPION: Nick Caruana
Ph.D. candidate, Political Science
University of Western Ontario

Single Transferable Vote is an effective compromise between what we like about the current system and what we want from a proportional system. It changes two things about the ballots we use. First, you rank candidates. You can choose many or just one. If your first-choice candidate comes in last, they're eliminated, and your vote counts towards your second choice, and so on. Secondly, ridings have more seats. Imagine squishing five ridings together to make one riding with five MPs. A major party will run five candidates, hoping for all the seats, while a fringe party may only run one. STV combines the local representation and accountability of the current system with better proportionality between the votes a party gets and its share of seats. And it lets voters give more information about what they want. Torn between two parties, or want to vote for a party and a local candidate you like from a different party? Rank both!

OPTION 2 Proportional Representation

How it works: Voters vote for a party, and the number of seats that go to each party is proportional to its vote share.
Where it's used: Germany, New Zealand, the Netherlands

CHAMPION: André Blais,
Professor, Political Science
Université de Montréal

Proportional Representation is the only system that delivers fairness; that's its greatest virtue. The percentage of Parliament seats a party gets is more or less equal to its percentage of votes. The second-greatest virtue is that PR is flexible. You can choose the version that accounts best for your other concerns. Districts can be large or small. You could have thresholds to limit the number of parties in Parliament. You could even have a mixed system with a combination of PR and some other system. A common concern about PR is that voters want to vote directly for a local candidate. Well, it is possible to have people vote for both a party and a candidate. (An example is Mixed-Member PR, where voters vote once for a party and once for a local candidate. Additional MPs who do not represent a riding sit in the House of Commons so that the proportion of seats a party holds still matches its share of the vote). The major objection to PR is that it leads to coalition governments. That is true, but coalitions have advantages. They weaken the power of the prime minister; major decisions require approval of coalition partners. And it's not true that coalition governments are unstable. European PR governments last a similar amount of time as Canadian governments do. If you believe fairness is crucial, you should support PR.

OPTION 3 Alternative Vote

How it works: Voters rank candidates, who are usually affiliated with a party, first to last. If none gets a majority of first-choice votes, the second choices, then third choices, etc., are counted until there is a winner — one MP per riding. The party with the most MPs gets to govern.
Where it's used: Australia

CHAMPION: Laura Stephenson
Associate professor,
Political Science
University of Western Ontario

An alternative vote system is the best option for electoral reform. It would not have a steep learning curve for voters.AV systems are similar to our current one: Voters indicate support for individual candidates and a single winner represents each riding. Our ridings would not have to change, and Canadians would continue to have a local MP in Parliament. The big difference would be how voters mark ballots. Instead of a single X, they'd rank the candidates by number. When a candidate wins with less than 50 per cent of the vote, like can happen now, a majority of voters preferred someone else. This would not happen with AV. Voting for someone with no chance of winning would not mean a wasted vote — support would be redistributed to the next-preferred option until one candidate emerged with over 50 per cent of the votes. This means any winning candidate would have the support of a majority of voters — maybe not a majority of first-choice votes, but preference over other options.

OPTION 4 Status Quo: First-Past-The-Post

How it works: Voters elect a local MP, who is usually affiliated with a party. The local candidate with the most votes wins, and the party with the most winners governs.
Where it's used: Canada, the U.K., India, many others

CHAMPION: Royce Koop
Associate professor,
Political Studies
University of Manitoba

First-Past-The-Post is designed to produce clear winners and single-party majority governments, even without a majority of votes. Majority governments can pursue big, visionary projects like free trade and they last around four years. Remember the uncertainty and frequent elections caused by minority governments in the 2000s? FPTP also creates effective representation. If you have a problem with the federal bureaucracy, you can enlist help from your riding's MP, thanks to a clear, direct link between MPs and voters. But imagine if your riding was twice or three times as populous as now, and the MP didn't have resources to help? Or you had several MPs, and it wasn't clear who to contact? Other systems produce these outcomes. FPTP ensures accountability. By voting, many Canadians held the Conservatives accountable. The government fell. But imagine if they were defeated but remained in power, in a coalition, for decades. That's possible in other electoral systems.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Docking dogs' tails? You're on the wrong side of history

The change has come — in B.C. this time, where veterinarians have voted to ban cosmetic ear cropping and tail docking for dogs.

Some breeders and dog owners aren't happy, which is unfortunate for them.

B.C. is the seventh province — and won't be the last — to outlaw cutting dogs' ears to sharp points and lopping off their tails, which supposedly gives breeds like Dobermans and Boxers their distinctive look.

This is the best kind of societal shift: originating from professionals, based on sound evidence and introduced for the welfare of the voiceless.

"I've always refused to crop," says Dr. Nicole Gallant, president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, which supports the bans.

The group states that studies show cropping and docking are medically risky and offer no "welfare or medical benefit" — a claim kennel associations make. It also calls on breed associations to remove surgical modifications from their standards.

There might be "a few generations of dog who won't win in the ring" at shows, Gallant noted, but the shift "is coming."

Gallant is careful to say she assumes most owners and breeders love and care for their pets.

"A lot of this is about educating people and discussing what these surgeries are and why we're choosing not to do them," she said. "Opinions are pretty strong on this."

Indeed. The Canadian Kennel Club objects to B.C.'s ban, and owners in other provinces have claimed (unconvincingly) the bans infringe upon their rights.

The debate is an old, stubborn one: Europe is ahead of us, and the U.S. behind. But even there, states such as New York and Vermont have considered similar bans. In response, the American Kennel Club is calling on "fanciers" to pressure their senators and owners to pressure their vets.

It's not surprising a group of people dedicated to "preserving breed character" are wary of change. But there is some irony: they breed dogs to be aggressive (say, Dobermans) and then cut the dogs' floppy ears because that aggression could cause ear injuries in a fight. As for "character," google "Doberman with floppy ears" and try to find that menacing.

Surgery advocates offer varied and lengthy defences — but consider the source.

Vets have nothing to gain by upsetting breeders and owners. Breeders and owners, on the other hand, have reputations to maintain. And adopting new practices would be admitting they were wrong in the past.

Few like being wrong. But there's only one winning side here. You can lose, or you can change.

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Don't need brains to figure it out

HORROR

Modern zombie movies owe big debt to Night of the Living Dead

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Night of the Living Dead has spawned nearly five decades of brain eating and head explosions, like this weekend's comedy-horror Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse. CONTRIBUTED

Movies like World War Z, Zombie Women of Satan and this weekend's comedy-horror Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse — the story of three Scouts who must bond to save their town from a zombie outbreak — owe a debt of gratitude to Night of the Living Dead.

In 1968, the story of story of people trapped in a rural Pennsylvania farmhouse trying to survive an attack by reanimated ghouls dragged a bloody new horror genre into the marketplace.

For better (see Re-Animator) and for worse (see Zombie Nightmare) the movie Rex Reed called "a classic" has spawned almost five decades of brain eating and head explosions, but according to the film's co-author John Russo, the origin of the idea was anything but sinister.

"Sometime in the winter of 1966 George Romero and I were having lunch with Richard Ricci," says Russo, then a co-partner with Romero and Russell Streiner (who has the film's most famous line, "They're coming to get you, Barbara!") in The Latent Image, a commercial television production house.

"George and I were complaining about the fickleness of our commercial clients. Richard said, 'So why don't you do something about it?' I thought about it and said, 'We oughtta be able to make something better than the crap we see on Chiller Theater.'

"George right away got excited, slammed the table with his big hand, sending bottles and glasses flying, and yelled, 'We're gonna make a movie!'"

The two batted around several ideas.

One, titled Monster Flick, was a horror comedy about teenage aliens, while another focused on flesh eating aliens.

"But we quickly discovered that we could not afford all the necessary special effects," he says, so the writing continued.

"We'd go to work late at night in separate offices, at separate typewriters," says Russo. "I said right away that our story should start in a cemetery because folks found cemeteries spooky. I was working on a script that started in a cemetery and involved aliens coming to earth in search of human flesh. But George took a break at Christmas time and came back with half of a story that started in a cemetery, and was in essence what became the first half of Night of the Living Dead. There were all the proper twists and turns and a lot of excitement, but George never said who the attackers were or why they were attacking.

"I said, 'I like this, George, but who are these attackers? You never say.' And he said he didn't know. So I said, 'It seems to me they could be dead people. But why are they attacking? What are they after?' Again, he said he didn't know. So I said, 'Why don't we use my flesh-eating idea?' And he agreed.

"So that's how the modern flesh-eating zombies were born!"

These days it doesn't take a lot of *braaaaaaaaaaaaaaains* to see the legacy of Night of the Living Dead. The ghoulish story is considered a classic, has spawned comedies like the box office hit Zombieland and hit television shows like The Walking Dead.

"We were absolutely dedicated toward making a movie that was true to its premise and the motivations of its characters, from start to finish," says Russo, adding, "[the movie] struck a primal chord in everybody, perhaps because of the atavistic memory of our species as easy prey for wild beasts, which we were for most of human history. We all carry the deep-seated fear of being devoured."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

SCOUTS GUIDE TO THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE	★★★
OUR BRAND IS CRISIS	★★★
TRUTH	★★★
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OUR BRAND IS CRISIS

After string of 'wife' offers, she took role written for man

Never mind the bollocks: Bullock plays politics

Is she going to be hot?

That's the question a studio executive asked Sandra Bullock about the lead character in a project she was pitching well into her Hollywood career.

"I looked at him and I go, 'Well, it is me, so you get what you get. You do realize that I'm pitching this for me?'" recalled Bullock in a recent interview. "He goes, 'Yeah, but I want to know, like, what is she going to wear?'"

Things have gotten a little better since then. In Our Brand is Crisis, out Friday, Bullock plays a role originally written for a man, and no one checked in to see whether or not the savvy political consultant character was going to be a bombshell, too.

But this is the exception. Bullock's conversation with the studio executive remains an all-too familiar scene for actresses in Hollywood, where sexist presumptions are engrained in the culture.

Then there's the matter of substance with roles for women. Bullock can't remember how many times she's had to listen to a writer try to explain how "the wife" is really the heart of the movie.

"I know what that means. That means you're going to be underwritten and you're just going to be the wife waking up in bed with the husband and making the coffee," she said. "If you say that I'm the heart of the piece, I'm going to (expletive) clock you."

That's why Bullock and her agent started looking at roles for men.

After all, male characters don't always have to be likable. Their comedies don't have to be of the romantic variety. And the first question from studio executives probably isn't going to be "Is he hot?"

When Bullock read the unproduced screenplay for Our Brand is Crisis, she decided to call longtime friends George Clooney and producer Grant Heslov to see if there was any chance they might consider her for the lead — an amoral, Sun Tzu-quoting political consultant who's come out of retirement for a showdown with an old rival. They said yes.

To adapt the part, they changed around some pronouns, they gave the character a woman's name, and they added some sexual innuendos with her foe (Billy Bob Thornton). But overall, it remained as originally written.

Part of that is the strength of screenwriter Peter Straughan's script, said Thornton. The transition from male to female was easy because it was never a type to begin with — the gender was almost incidental.

"I tend as a writer to not identify characters unless there's a reason for it," said Thornton. "(Straughan) wrote it as a person."

From there, director David Gordon Green and his actors could focus on the big ideas in this satirical story about a failing Bolivian presidential candidate and the American lackeys hired to try to manipulate his image and a country for the win.

As someone whose father worked in the Pentagon, Bullock understands the allure of stories about the underbelly of politics. The do-anything candidates and unscrupulous mercenaries in Our Brand is Crisis are especially resonant now, she notes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Redford as Rather brings home Truth

JAMES VANDERBILT

Director draws on acting legend to play famous news anchor

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Who do you get to play an icon? If you are James Vanderbilt, director of Truth, you hire another icon.

The story of 60 Minutes producer Mary Mapes and legendary news anchor Dan Rather's journalistic examination into President George W. Bush's military service features Robert Redford as one of the most famous reporters of the twentieth century. "The movie's big buy is, 'Are you going to see Redford all the way through or are you going to see Rather?'" says Vanderbilt.

"Redford is a phenomenal actor but what he brings into a scene by just being present (is a) gravitational pull. The room turns toward him. Getting to know Dan, that's what Dan Rather is like. When Dan Rather walks into a room, the same thing happens.

"Everybody turns into, in a good way, a teenager, because those are both voices who have been in your living room for 30 to 40 years. It's a voice of God thing they both have and that's why I really wanted Bob to do it."

Vanderbilt says the legendary actor is "very easy going, the nicest guy you'll ever meet," but nonetheless made people on the set nervous.

"We had heads of departments who had been working in film for 30 years who couldn't call him Bob. He would say, 'Call me Bob,' and they would say, 'I'm sorry, I can't do that Mr. Redford. I'm very sorry that is not going to happen.'"

Vanderbilt is best known as a screenwriter, penning the scripts for The Amazing Spider-Man, Zodiac, White House Down and the upcoming Independence Day 2.

His screenplay for Truth is based on Mapes' memoir Truth and Duty and reveals a time before journalism was driven by ad sales and click-throughs.

"It was pre iPhone," he says. "It was a year before the iPhone came out and that is such a big thing in terms of how we connect to one another now. How we relate to each other. Journalists and everybody. It felt like a fulcrum point, kind of where we had been, journalistically, and where we are now."

His research into the story gave the director a new respect for journalists.

"I think it is a very noble profession but maybe I'm a very pie in the sky guy," he says. "I think the more young people who grow up and go, 'This is what I want to be. I want to ask questions of power,' the better. I think we, as a society, are better that way."

"The notion of long-form ideas, long-form journalism doesn't really exist in television anymore, in the way it did when Mary and Dan were at CBS."
Actress Cate Blanchett, who plays 60 Minutes producer Mary Mapes, tells Metro

Cate Blanchett and Bruce Greenwood in a scene from Truth, directed by James Vanderbilt. CONTRIBUTED

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FILM BRIEF

De Niro stars opposite Efron in Dirty Grandpa
After playing a silver-haired intern opposite Anne Hathaway, Robert De Niro's next movie role sees the actor playing a randy, recently widowed grandfather alongside Zac Efron.

In the first trailer for the film Dirty Grandpa, Efron plays De Niro's straight-laced grandson charged with driving De Niro to Boca Raton, Fla.

Along their road trip, the pair stop off at heady Spring Break party spots where granddad encourages his buttoned-up, sweater-over-the-shoulders grandson to sow his oats and end the engagement to his stuck-up fiancé, played by Julianne Hough.

Dirty Grandpa hits theatres Jan. 22. AFP

Robert De Niro and Zac Efron in Dirty Grandpa. AFP

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

A classic baseball-themed movie as cinematic as Bautista's bat flip? We both knew what we craved: The Natural

Last Friday night, we caught bits of Game 6 — you know, the one between the Toronto Blue Jays and the Kansas City Royals? — on AM radio in our cab ride home from an event. Actually, we made one pit stop to get burritos where we witnessed Royals' third baseman Mike Moustakas make a formidable catch from a ground fly that caused Simon to pause. "That's gotta feel better than sex," he said.

The Jays may have lost, but the country feels united. And we, at least, still have baseball on the brain.

That meant one thing: watch a classic baseball-themed movie as cinematic as Bautista's bat flip. There was much discussion: Should we start Ken Burns' 11-part documentary on the game? Or, were we in the mood for something a little more lighthearted, like Bull Durham, A League of Their Own or Major League?

Nope. We both knew what we craved: The Natural — and not just because one of us (him) is obsessed with Robert Redford's hair. The 1984 film is dear to me. It introduced me to Richard Farnsworth, who can break your heart with a single glance of his glossy blue eyes. It confirmed my love of sports movies, a passion which '79's Breaking Away launched. And, I think the film, beautifully shot by Caleb Deschanel, inspired my dad — who's more into Bach and Bertrand Russell than baseball — to play catch with me. Even during my teenage years, when I knew everything, we'd go into the backyard with our well-worn gloves and toss the ball around under sun sparkle.

THE MOVIE: The Natural

THE MEAL: Hotdogs

It'd had been a while since we'd seen The Natural. It has also been some time since we've eaten hot dogs for dinner. But the combination was a no-brainer. Here's the thing though: I don't like fat or fancy hot dogs. I only eat Schneiders Red Hots, preferably burnt to a carcinogenic crisp over a fire. But Simon only likes Schneiders Juicy Jumbos. So we bought both.

Simon's favourite way to prepare hotdogs is to broil them in the oven. Because his experience with wieners is vastly greater than mine, I conceded. The toppings? Yellow mustard and raw sweet onion. That's it.

And the movie? It was just as weird as I remembered it, although this time around Roy Hobbs' Odyssean-like voyage was more obvious because I didn't know who Homer was when I was 10.

The Natural shouldn't be as good as it is. A near mythical, magical bat cut from a tree that was struck by lightening? Are you kidding me? Good versus evil in the form of patient Penelope and a couple of evil-siren-like women? Get out of town! And that finale when Hobbs rounds the bases after hitting a homer that causes the scoreboard lights to come crashing down around him in a shower of effervescent glory while Randy Newman's Oscar-nominated score sweeps up your very soul? Come on!

And yet, like the game itself, somehow it is capable of becoming this canvas for the purest — and by that I mean the most irrational and beautiful — human emotions. It shouldn't mean that much. But it does. And we do a disservice to ourselves, and to the game, when we attempt to figure out why.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

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Musician's multiplicity a marvel to behold

Clara Venice's show features 'hologlamour' projections of herself playing various instruments. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Clara Venice plays 72 instruments on her new album

Kris Abel
For Metro Canada

Of the 72 musical instruments played by Clara Venice on her new album Electric Dream it's the Theremin that she's connected to most.

"To me it's just the most magical instrument" she says excitedly, "it can mimic a voice, a guitar or a violin."

Invented in 1920, the Theremin is known for producing eerie sounds when you hold your hands near two antennae to complete an electric circuit, but in Clara's expert hands it delivers a warm scenery of grooves that matches the way she sways her hips and bops to the crowds on stage.

"It's a sound that most people know from science fiction movies, but it can actually do so much more" she explains.

"I've got a solo on the album that people honestly think is an electric guitar until it gets to the very end and it's sliding around in a way that wouldn't be possible."

With her pink hair, Minnie Mouse leggings, and cuddly-bear Laplander hat she enthuses delights that seem simple and easy, but they grow from a sophisticated curiosity. In her songs her characters read Yates even as they surprise each other with Skittles and her album is full of sounds from the largest collection of rare instruments in the world, the National Music Centre in Calgary.

"They basically just let me go crazy" she says of her residency there which gave her access to an electric violin, ukulele, glockenspiel, and an exotic instrument called the Buchla Lightning. "It's an instrument you play with two magic wands" she says with delight.

She's toured with the Barenaked Ladies and performed this past summer at the Beakerhead festival in Calgary where she debuted a stage system incorporating four pre-recorded "Hologlamour" projections of herself.

"It's kind of like the Spice Girls, but more the Space Girls" she says of her green screen-generated band, needed to share her many instruments. "There's four different personas: one of them is the guitar player, one of them is the keyboard, one of them is a string player, the other plays ukulele, and they accompany me as I sing and perform live on the Theremin."

Each virtual clone gives Clara a chance to come up with new identities through colourful wigs, clothes, and moves. VJ and programmer Owen Denham helped orchestrate the live experience which also includes inter-planetary vistas and virtual rabbits captured in advance also using agreen screen technology.

"I want to create music that becomes your environment" she says of her new album Electric Dream, "I want something that will envelop you, hug you, and move you along throughout your day."

THE ALBUM

If you want to hear more:

- Electric Dream is available now through iTunes
- Tour updates: claravenice.com

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Cooper shows off his chops

BURNT

Actor realized pre-existing cooking skills wouldn't cut it

Bradley Cooper plays a high-octane, drug-addicted top chef in Burnt. HANDOUT

Bradley Cooper wasn't a novice to the kitchen when he decided to take on the role of the fictional Michelin star chef Adam Jones in Burnt.

He grew up in a food loving home near Philadelphia — some of his favourite memories are of his grandmother making pizza, cheesecakes and homemade raviolis. He was a bus boy at a Greek restaurant there, a waiter at a fancy establishment near Georgetown University, and a prep cook at an Italian and seafood place in Somers Point, New Jersey.

One day, he said, he cut and cleaned 620 chickens and nine boxes of peppers in addition to making the dough and sauces.

But he didn't tell anyone that when he started rubbing elbows with the Michelin calibre cooks he needed to learn from for this role.

"They wouldn't have cared," said Cooper, laughing. Besides, he needed to get down to work if he was going to believably portray this top chef seeking a third Michelin star. Whatever knife proficiency he thought he had wasn't exactly going to cut it under the scrutiny of professionals.

In Burnt, out Friday, not only is Adam Jones a savant in the kitchen; he's also got a drug habit that's left him an exile in the world of haute cuisine. While the drugs are under control for the moment, his temper is another story. Who better to learn from than the stormy Gordon Ramsay?

Cooper trained alongside Claire Smythe, executive chef of London's Restaurant Gordon Ramsay, which has three Michelin stars, for "many, many services," said director John Wells.

"All the actors had to spend the time to get fluent in the craft — not fluent enough to serve 100 meals, but fluent enough where someone else who knows how to do it wouldn't think they look ridiculous."

When it got down to shooting, they chose the authentic over the artificial.

BBC TV Master Chef presenter Marcus Wareing was behind the camera, both designing the menus and keeping an eye on everyone's technique.

The actors felt the stress and the pain of working in a real kitchen too — sometimes literally, with cuts and burns.

"That's real sweat. My eyes were bloodshot for half the movie. It was all real. For an actor, that was amazing. There was no stunt double. There was no insert of another person's hands," said Cooper.

Being No. 1 on the call sheet isn't unlike being the head of a kitchen, too. Cooper needed to set the tone of the operation.

"He did exactly what any director would want him to do. He was fully prepared, had done all of his research, knew all of his lines and showed up ready to work and was as demanding as Adam," said Wells. "He was the first person on the set and the last person off."

The seriousness with which Cooper approached the role reminded Wells of another actor he'd worked with recently: Meryl Streep.

He remembers showing up for a read through of August: Osage County and Streep was already off book.

"Everyone else was like, 'Oh, uh oh, it's going to be like that, is it?' And that was the same with Bradley," he said.

"Bradley, because he's so damn good looking, people don't realize that he's really smart — fiercely intelligent. He questions things and you and everyone else had better be prepared."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Q&A

Cooper talks audience expectations and how real the kitchen experience was.

With the amount of reality and scripted shows about chefs, do you expect a certain level of pre-existing knowledge from audiences these days?

It's a very educated audience, and we were very aware of that. We were very conscious that we have to be as authentic as we can because people are going to be able to smell it out in two seconds. I'm not so sure how well-versed people are with the history of Michelin, but in terms of the back of the house being documented on the Food Network, whole channels dedicated to it, that's all over the place.

How realistic was your kitchen set-up for this?

That's a functioning kitchen. Every shot, that's me doing it for better or for worse. All the other extras that you see in the kitchen, those were all chefs who work in Michelin-starred restaurants. None of them were actors aside from Omar, Ricardo, Sienna and Sam. The rest were all chefs. And we were making food. Each day we would come into work, there would be orders that we would have that I would call out, and there would be food in the refrigerator ready to cook those meals, and we had to cook them.

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The Phantom of the Paradise, Brian De Palma's schlocky rock 'n' roll riff on The Phantom of the Opera, continues to be an inexplicable cult hit in Winnipeg. HANDOUT

Only Winnipeggers get it

HORROR MOVIES

World said film no good, but one city begs to differ

Alan Cross
For Metro Canada

Forty years ago, two movies were released to massive public indifference. One would later become a worldwide cult phenomenon that has since grossed more than $440 million. The other also became a cult favourite but on a — ahem — slightly smaller scale.

That first movie, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, has never officially been pulled from theatrical release by 20th Century Fox and continues to screen all over the world. The second film also lives on, but only in one place: Winnipeg.

The Phantom of the Paradise, Brian De Palma's schlocky rock 'n' roll riff on The Phantom of the Opera, tells the story of poor Winslow Leach, who, after being disfigured by having his head squished in a record press, has his music stolen by the evil Swan, played by the diminutive Paul Williams, best known at the time for writing hits for The Carpenters and Barbra Streisand, and who would soon gain fame for writing Rainbow Connection for Kermit the Frog. Swan also steals away Phoenix, the object of Leach/The Phantom's unrequited love. It all ends very badly for everyone.

For reasons that baffle cinephiles, musicologists and sociologists, Paradise grabbed on to the good people of Winnipeg upon its release in 1974 and never let go. While the film was bounced from theatres within a week or two in most cities, it ran for months in Winnipeg. The city bought more than 20,000 copies of the soundtrack. And passion for the movie continues to run very, very deep.

Every couple of years, Winnipeg's love for Paradise is renewed with a gathering called Phantompalooza. This Friday night, Paradisers will once again assemble at the Metropolitan Entertainment Centre, not far from the old Garrick Theatre where the movie first played in 1974. The guest of honour will be Peter Elbling, the lead ghoul of The Undead, one of the film's fictional bands. The city is freaking out at the prospect of seeing the man who sang Somebody Super Like You.

I will be there. My sister is performing in the event's house band. A lot of my old friends will be attending. None of us can explain it; this is just something Winnipeggers do.

Several years ago I cornered Williams backstage at a Canadian Music Week event. I had to tell him that I considered Paradise to be one of the greatest movies I'd ever seen as a kid.

Williams, who has the tiniest feet I've ever seen on a grown man, looked up at me with a weird expression. "Why?"

"I'm from Winnipeg," I replied.

"Oh," he said. "That explains it."

HOT 100

Sorry, chart-topping Canucks not calling it in

Canadian musicians hold down the top four spots on the Billboard Hot 100 for the first time in the 60-year history of the U.S. singles chart.

The Weeknd (aka Abel Tesfaye) is at the top of the charts for the second week straight with The Hills from his Beauty Behind the Madness album. His Can't Feel My Face was in the top and third spots earlier this month.

Rapper Drake's song Hotline Bling was in second spot, followed by Justin Bieber's What Do You Mean (the song was earlier in the top spot). Shawn Mendes is in the No. 4 spot with Stitches.

While it's a first for Canadians to nail down the top four spots, Canucks have done well in the past. On Feb. 12, 1994, All for Love by Bryan Adams dropped from No. 1 to No. 2 spot, replaced by The Power of Love by Celine Dion.

On May 5, 2007, Give It to Me by Timbaland (featuring Nelly Furtado) dipped to No. 2 after two weeks atop the chart, replaced by Girlfriend from Avril Lavigne.

Justin Bieber GETTY IMAGES

In 1978, Canuck Nick Gilder's Hot Child in the City was replaced atop the charts by Anne Murray's You Needed Me.

Toronto-born bandleader Percy Faith's Theme for a Summer Place and pop star Paul Anka's Something Happened were in the Top Ten together the week of July 2, 1960.

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Experiencing Gullah culture

BEAUFORT, S.C.

Painting class, foot-stomping musical evoke region's past

Mike Dojc
For Metro Canada

The Gullah are the descendants of the people of the rice coast regions of Western Africa who were stripped of their freedom, herded onto slave ships, and imported as chattel to the Lowcountry of South Carolina and Georgia. They were liberated the first year of the Civil War following the battle of Port Royal and remained in the Beaufort area, where decades of rural isolation preserved their African-American Gullah culture.

Whispers of the past can still be heard when staring out at the vast salt marshes from the waterfront — a view undisturbed by the passage of time — or walking down the town's shady residential streets through a towering and twisted canopy of live oaks festooned with Spanish moss that rustles in the breeze.

The porch ceilings of stately antebellum homes are painted a soft, pale "haint blue," a stylistic flourish that arose from Gullah ghostbusting tradition. The cooling colour is believed to ward off "haints" or evil spirits. According to Gullah superstition, lost souls up to no good are as afraid of water as the Wicked Witch of the West. Beaufort's bubbling art scene with galleries dotting the downtown core also serves as a visual bridge to the past.

SUPERSTITION
Porch ceilings in the South Carolina Lowcountry are commonly painted "haint blue," a colour believed to ward off evil spirits.

Creative freedom

"I had two types of grandmothers. I had that really sweet grandmother who would teach me how to bake cakes. Then I had that grandmother who would teach me how to go get a switch," riffs Sonja Griffins Evans, an acclaimed Gullah culture artist.

She's pointing to a work of hers depicting a young girl with her hands clasped and her guardian behind her in a matching white dress. "When I first painted it I thought this is Nana's baby." We're in the courtyard of the Beaufort Arsenal, a castle-like fortification constructed in 1799, about to dip our brushes and have at it in a painting class.

Gullah paintings tend to employ bright, vibrant colours in their depictions of post-emancipation community life, and figures are often faceless. Evans steers us to follow our own path but shepherds the artistic process by urging pupils to pick out one colour that is personally meaningful and then blanket our canvas with it to serve as a backdrop.

After choosing a dark shade of green and making a few muddy brushstrokes she glances at my work in progress and intuits correctly that I'm "a bit of a nature guy." Later she takes a look and envisions a red-roofed structure in my painting's future, another prescient forecast.

Evans' work can be found at Scout Southern Market (709 Bay St.), a home decor shop where you can sip on a mint mojito sweet tea float while browsing hand-hammered copper pitchers, porch bed swings, and spoon-laden chandeliers.

For a wide variety of Gullah, African and low-country folk art, LyBensons Gallery and Studio (211 Charles St.) carries everything from sweetgrass baskets and wood burnings, to works depicting Gullah icon Robert Smalls, the slave-turned-ship captain and eventual five-term congressman.

The view from the third-floor balcony of the Anchorage 1770 inn in Beaufort, S.C. CONTRIBUTED

Aunt Pearlie Sue of Aunt Pearlie Sue and The Gullah Kinfolk performs for guests. MIKE DOJC/FOR METRO

Painting by Sonja Griffins Evans. MIKE DOJC/FOR METRO

A Gullah night on the town

The first Friday in December will ring in the Yuletide season on the South Carolina Sea Islands with a stirring rendition of The Gullah Kinfolk: Christmas Wish … Freedom Coming at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort's Performing Arts Center. Connect with Gullah culture through a dazzling, foot-stomping musical bringing alive the excitement of December of 1860, the last Christmas holiday before the Civil War.

Coinciding with the stirring theatrical performance is the Taste of Gullah Soulfood Buffet where local caterers serve up collards, candied yams, gumbo, red rice and other rib-sticking favourites. There will also be an artist showcase and market.

Some travel and accommodation costs were courtesy of the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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Orlando beyond the theme parks

FLORIDA

10 fun things you can do in the city, from arts to wildlife

Mark Stachiew
For Metro Canada

Many Canadians never venture beyond the walls of Orlando's famous theme parks, but those who do will discover an exciting range of experiences in the Florida city that just might surprise them.

1 Ride the Orlando Eye
It only opened last year, but this gigantic Ferris wheel has become an instant Orlando icon. Take a sunset ride on this engineering wonder and marvel at the panoramic views below.

2 Look for gators
You don't have to go all the way to the Everglades to see alligators. Just 30 minutes from town, you can take an airboat tour that will let you see gators and other wildlife in their natural habitat.

3 Ride an Amphicar
At the Boathouse Restaurant in Disney Springs, a sprawling shopping, dining and entertainment district, you can take a one-of-a-kind tour of the nearby lake in an Amphicar, a 1960s-era amphibious car of which only a few hundred remain in the world.

4 Enjoy fine dining
Foodies love Orlando's restaurant scene. It attracts celebrity chefs from around the world and is home to some local chefs who are making names for themselves. Whether you prefer Southern barbecue, Asian fusion or farm-to-fork, just about any type of cuisine you can think of can be found here.

The Orlando Eye has become an instant icon of the city. HANDOUT

5 Go up in a hot-air balloon
The Orlando Eye is not the only way to get a bird's-eye view of the sprawling city and the area around it. Visitors can experience a sunrise ride in a hot-air balloon that transports them above the ground at a leisurely pace.

6 See the fishes
SEA LIFE Aquarium is the perfect place to bring the kids on a rainy day or on those days that it's so hot that you want to do something inside. This colourful aquarium is a lot of fun and children won't even notice that it's educational.

7 Get close to celebrities
Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum lets you get up close to their celebrity figures. You'll be amazed at their resemblance to the real thing and may even be surprised at just how tall (or short) some of them are. Selfies are encouraged!

8 Peek into the backyards of the rich
For a century, the swanky Orlando neighbourhood of Winter Garden was the winter home to many rich, northern industrialists. Their stately waterfront homes are still favoured by the rich and famous and ordinary folks can get a peek by taking a boat tour that passes by their properties.

9 Go to a show
The newly opened Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts is a stunning, state-of-the-art concert venue in downtown Orlando that hosts live music, broadway musicals, theatre, comedy and much more. Check their schedule to see what's playing when you are in town.

10 Admire some Tiffany glass
The glass masterpieces of Louis Tiffany are preserved at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park. It is the most important collection of this art nouveau master best known for his colourful lamps.

The writer was a guest of Visit Orlando, which did not review nor approve the story.

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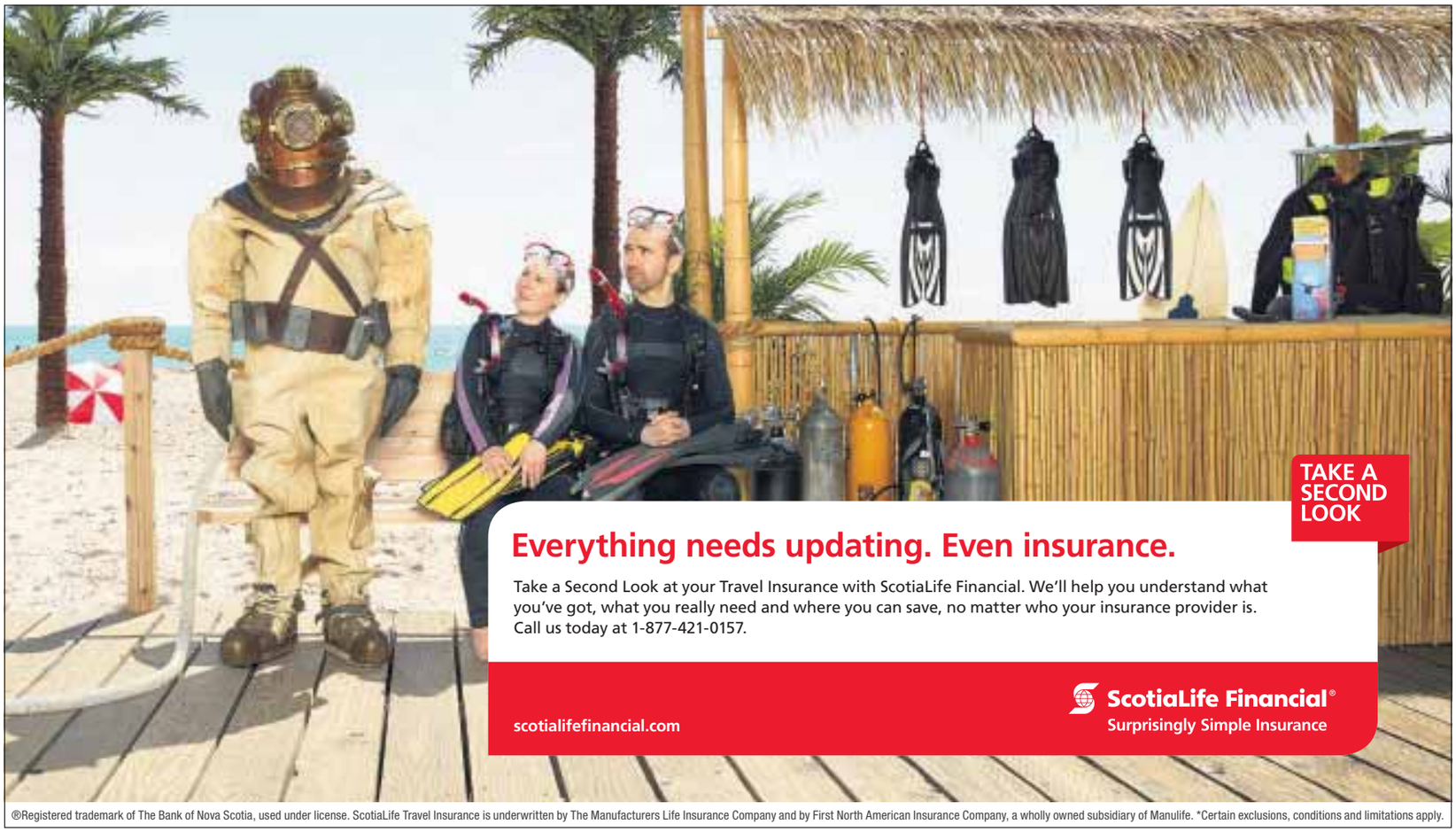
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London thrilled by new Bond exhibit

ON THE MOVE

Displays range from fast rides to a crocodile submarine

Loren Christie
For Metro Canada

The Brits love their Bond.

"He is very much a British cultural icon. Everybody has grown up with him: kids, parents and even grandparents," explains Rachel Stewardson, a tour guide at the London Film Museum.

On until March 2016, the museum's Bond in Motion exhibit, a collection of James Bond vehicles, has been wildly popular with locals and tourists alike. With the launch of the latest Bond flick, Spectre, Stewardson expects the exhibit will be extended for another year.

The most popular vehicle here is the classic Bond car, the Aston Martin. The DB5 used in Goldeneye is displayed prominently and a one-third scale model of the same make, used in Skyfall, gives visitors a glimpse into the magic of movie-making.

You quickly learn that many other Aston Martins have played a part in the Bond world: the V12 Vanquish from Die Another Day, the V8 from The Living Daylights, and even the wreckage of the DBS used in Casino Royale, which broke a Guinness world record for the number of flips (seven and three-quarters rotation) taken by a stunt driver during filming.

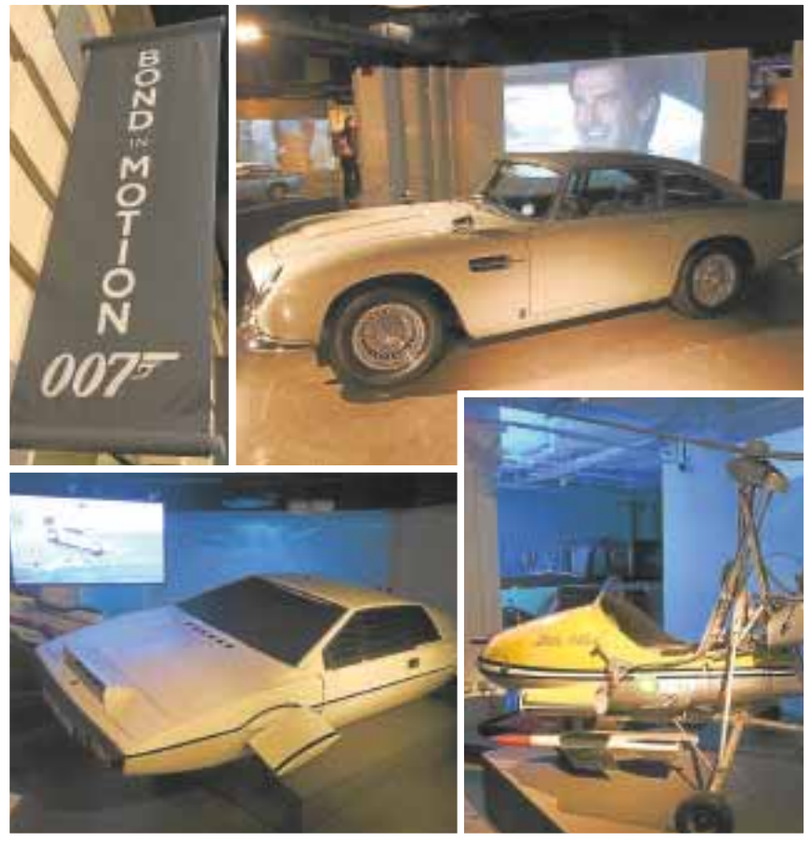
Another highlight is the Lotus Esprit S1 from the Spy Who Loved Me. Remember the scene where Bond and his Russian spy love interest, pursued by a gun-blazing helicopter, go flying off a pier into the water? When the car transforms into a submersible laden with Q-supplied gadgets, you can't help but cheer for the suave spy.

> **The museum does an excellent job of immersing you into the world of Bond.**

My favourite displays are the unconventional vehicles: the cello case sled used by Bond to slide away from armed guards in The Living Daylights; the Little Nellie auto gyro mini helicopter from You Only Live Twice; and the crocodile submarine from Octopussy. Apparently the filmmakers acquired a real crocodile for the scene, which then escaped and hibernated under the set, only to reappear two weeks later.

In addition to the vehicles, there are storyboards, scripts and a smattering of the costumes and props used during more than 50 years of Bond filmmaking. Video screens placed throughout play the relevant clips from the movies.

Located half a block from Covent Garden, a stop here will leave anyone interested in movie-making shaken and stirred.



The London Film Museum's Bond in Motion exhibit runs to March 2016. LOREN CHRISTIE/FOR METRO

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The Colorado Rockies have declined a $9-million mutual option on Justin Morneau and bought him out for $750,000

Hutchinson, Jets deny Hawks a 5th straight win

NHL

Backup goalie stops 45 shots in finale of homestand

THURSDAY in Winnipeg

JETS	HAWKS
3	1

Michael Hutchinson stopped 45 shots and Bryan Little set up a pair of goals as the Winnipeg Jets halted the Chicago Blackhawks' four-game winning streak with a 3-1 victory on Thursday.

The Jets (6-3-1) held a 2-1 edge heading into the third period on goals by Blake Wheeler and Andrew Ladd.

Mark Scheifele padded the lead at 8:04 when he took a pass from rookie Nikolaj Ehlers and beat goalie Corey Crawford on the short side.

Patrick Kane scored the game's first goal, his sixth of the season, 1:26 into the match on a power play for Chicago (6-4-0).

5

Ehlers extended his point streak to five games in which he has four goals and four assists.

Crawford was riding the four wins and a pair of shutouts into the game for the Blackhawks. He stopped 28 shots.

The Jets got off on the wrong foot quickly when defenceman Toby Enstrom took a hooking penalty at 18 seconds of the first period.

The reigning Stanley Cup champions made them pay as Kane took a cross-ice pass from centre Artemi Panarin and fired a low shot past Hutchinson.

Wheeler tied it 1-1 with his fifth goal of the season after Little won the faceoff, sent the puck back to him and he delivered a low shot from the top of the circle that went under Crawford's stretched-out left leg at 8:12.

With hometown product Jonathan Toews in the box for holding, the Jets peppered shots at Crawford until Ladd flipped in a Little rebound to go ahead 2-1 at 5:09 of the second.

Winnipeg defenceman Jacob Trouba took a tripping penalty with 19 seconds left in the second, but his teammates killed it off.

Chicago pulled Crawford with just under three minutes remaining in the game, but Hutchinson withstood the challenge.

It was the final game of Winnipeg's season-long, six-game homestand (3-2-1).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Blackhawks' David Rundbland attempts to knock the Jets' Mark Scheifele off the puck on Thursday night at MTS Centre. JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Jones, McEwen have yet to lose at Curling Masters

Ottawa's Rachel Homan remains undefeated after nine draws of round-robin play at the Grand Slam of Curling Masters tournament.

Homan (3-0) scored two in the sixth end and added one in the eighth to top Sweden's Margaretha Sigfridsson (0-3) 5-3 in her afternoon match on Thursday.

Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones improved to 2-0 with a 9-2 victory over Switzerland's Alina Paets in Draw 7 while Val Sweeting (2-0) of Edmonton toppled Binia Feltscher of Switzerland 8-2 in the morning draw.

On the men's side, Winnipeg's Mike McEwen is 3-0 after dispatching Calgary's Pat Simmons (1-2) 8-2 in the afternoon. Calgary's Kevin Koe and Brad Gushue of St. John's. Nfld., are also 3-0.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Malkin, Penguins make Sabres their latest victim

Evgeni Malkin scored his fourth of the season on the power play, Jeff Zatkoff made 50 saves in his season debut and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Buffalo Sabres 4-3 on Thursday night.

Pascal Dupuis, Patric Hornqvist and Ben Lovejoy all scored their first of the season and Malkin added an assist for Pittsburgh. The Penguins earned their third straight victory, sixth win in seven games and seventh straight over Buffalo.

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Anthopoulos leaves everyone puzzled

MLB

Jays' successful GM exits post with class but in cloud of mystery

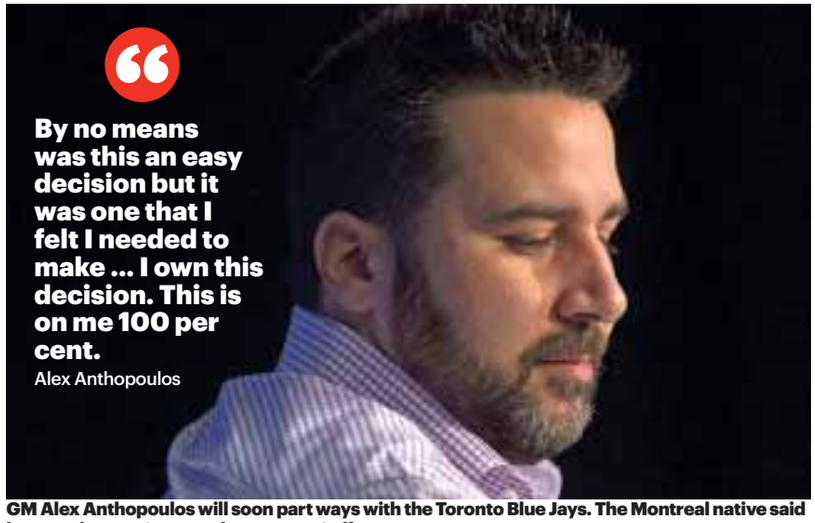
The same day he was named Major League Baseball's executive of the year, Alex Anthopoulos found himself trying to explain why he was facing unemployment.

In a surprising turn of events, the Toronto Blue Jays parted ways with their chief architect Thursday — less than a week after coming within one inning of forcing Game 7 in the American League Championship Series. Anthopoulos said it was his choice, with the final decision coming Wednesday afternoon.

"I just didn't feel like this was the right fit for me going forward," Anthopoulos told reporters in a conference call Thursday. "Not an easy (decision). Obviously everyone knows how I feel about the organization, the city, the country. By no means was this an easy decision but it was one that I felt I needed to make ... I own this decision. This is on me 100 per cent," he added.

It was a classy if confusing exit. Despite repeated questions, Anthopoulos did not elaborate on why he is leaving, other than to say that he wanted to be true to himself and that the impasse was not due to a financial disagreement. But the GM's departure comes during a changeover in Jays management with Mark Shapiro, the former Cleveland Indians president, taking over from the departing Paul Beeston as president and CEO.

"This decision is solely mine. Mark gave me every opportunity to return. He was sincere in wanting me back ... (Team owner) Rogers and Mark were more than generous, I mean extremely generous," added the Montreal native.


By no means was this an easy decision but it was one that I felt I needed to make ... I own this decision. This is on me 100 per cent.
Alex Anthopoulos

GM Alex Anthopoulos will soon part ways with the Toronto Blue Jays. The Montreal native said he was given an 'extremely generous' offer to stay CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Anthopoulos left more questions than answers. He said he wanted to be back and that ownership and his new boss wanted him to stay. But clearly the team's new landscape was not one he could live with.

He declined to say why it was not a good fit. But he went out of his way to praise Shapiro and Rogers, stressing that the baseball team is in good hands.

"I know this is not an easy day for anybody ... I don't think any of us wanted this to happen." Anthopoulos, 38, turned down a five-year contract extension, amid speculation of a difference in vision with Shapiro, who does not officially take up his new job until Monday. Unlike Beeston, Shapiro is a president immersed in the baseball side — and one who clearly has his own views on how to run a club. Shapiro and Anthopoulos don't appear to be on the same page, although Anthopoulos rejected the suggestion of a power struggle.

Anthopoulos said he did not have another job lined up, although he said his phone "exploded" Thursday once news of his pending departure broke.

Anthopoulos, then assistant general manager, took over as Toronto's GM in 2009 after J.P. Ricciardi was fired.

The Jays went 489-483 under Anthopoulos, according to Sportsnet stats, but soared this year. The GM earned kudos for a string of moves that produced a thrilling 93-69 campaign and a return to the playoffs after 22 years. He helped end the team's playoff drought by retooling in the off-season and then showing some impressive sleight of hand before the trade deadline.

Signing Canadian catcher Russell Martin and trading for third baseman Josh Donaldson provided an upgrade on and off the field. Then the deadline acquisitions of David Price, Ben Revere, Troy Tulowitzki and LaTroy Hawkins helped the team to a remarkable second-half surge.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FINALISTS

Martin, Buerhrle and Pillar on Gold Glove shortlist

Catcher Russell Martin, pitcher Mark Buehrle and centre-fielder Kevin Pillar were named 2015 Gold Glove Award finalists.

WORLD SERIES

Heat on Mets rookie to cut K.C.'s 2-0 lead

The man-child on the mound was simply getting some work in, two simulated innings to keep sharp for the World Series. It was late afternoon at Kauffman Stadium, dimmed by dark clouds on this overcast day in Kansas City, and even his New York Mets teammates wanted no part of six-foot-six Noah Syndergaard.

David Wright bounded into the batting cage, watched a few fastballs whizz by like pellets fired from a BB gun, and stepped right back out.

"How are you supposed to hit that?" he asked buddy Michael Cuddyer. A chuckling group of Mets marvelled at Syndergaard's sizzling cheese the day before the Series opener — but now they've placed the heat squarely on their rookie starter. With the National League champs trailing 2-0 in the best-of-seven set, the 23-year-old thunderbolt aptly nicknamed Thor pitches Friday night against Royals right-hander Yordano Ventura.

And the Mets know perfectly well they can't afford to lose. "I feel like being able to watch the past two games has helped me devise a game plan," Syndergaard said. His fastball averaged 97.1 m.p.h. during the regular season, the highest velocity of any major leaguer who pitched at least 150 innings, according to STATS. The 24-year-old Ventura ranked third at 96.3 m.p.h.

> **He's a very fast learner. He has no fear.**
> Mets manager Terry Collins

In the NL playoffs, Syndergaard threw 22 pitches at least 100 m.p.h. and topped out at 101, STATS said. Ventura can touch the century mark, too.

But while Syndergaard certainly brings it, so do Mets aces Matt Harvey and Jacob deGrom.

And despite their 95-98 m.p.h. fastballs, neither one was able to throttle a Royals lineup that's mastered the lost art of consistently making solid contact.

Alex Gordon hit a tying homer in the ninth inning of Game 1 on a 97 m.p.h. quick-pitch from New York closer Jeurys Familia. "We're always ready for the fastball," Gordon explained. "Never miss a fastball and adjust to offspeed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Marlins hire Mattingly as their new manager

Don Mattingly was hired as manager of the Miami Marlins less than a week after he parted with the Los Angeles Dodgers, two people familiar with the situation said Thursday.

Mattingly went 446-363 in five years with the Dodgers.

The injury-riddled Marlins finished 71-91, their sixth consecutive losing season.

Later Thursday, general manager Dan Jennings was fired by the Marlins, ending a 13-year association.

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RECIPE Sweet Potato and Kale Frittata

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This savory breakfast for dinner is as healthy as it is satisfying.

Ready in
Prep time: 20 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 Tbsp butter
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 1 pound frozen chopped kale
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 cups boiled diced sweet potato (about 1 large potato)
- 2 whole eggs, 2 egg whites
- 2 Tbsp milk
- 1 tspn fresh, chopped parsley

Directions
1. Preheat oven to 400 F.
2. In an ovenproof skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add onions and cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Add garlic and kale and cook until garlic fragrant and kale wilted.
3. Add potatoes and soften, about 3 to 5 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, whisk eggs, whites and milk. Pour egg mixture over potatoes and kale, and cook on stovetop another 3 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley.
5. Transfer skillet to oven and bake about 6 to 8 minutes or until eggs are set.

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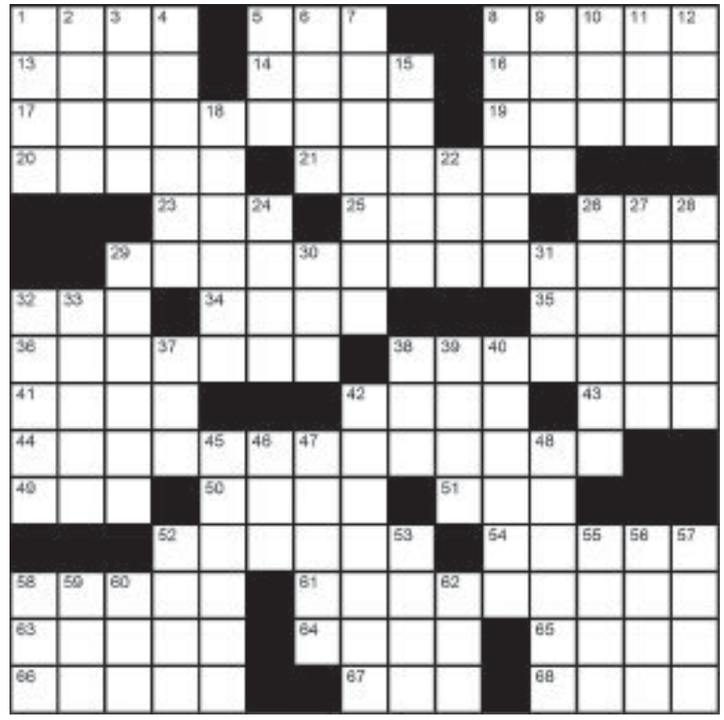
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Computer network signal
5. Roman Numeral for 905
8. Apparition in the attic
13. Prayer sign-off
14. Pea: French
16. "I, Frankenstein" (2014) star Mr. Eckhart
17. Grave marker
19. Surnamesakes of Paul of "Halloween: The Curse of Michael Myers" (1995)
20. Peel off the paint
21. Scan the webpage
23. Vancouver-born actor Mr. Bellows of 2012 horror "House at the End of the Street"
25. Ornamental case
26. Ms. West
29. Sci-Fi horror of 1978 starring Donald Sutherland, "Invasion of the __ __"
32. Swiss river, variantly
34. QED's 'E'
35. Discharge
36. Schedule
38. Shiver from fright
41. Dr. Frankenstein's pal
42. Mr. Astin of 2007 thriller "Borderland"
43. 'Baron' suffix
44. Halloween decoration creator, perhaps: 2 wds.
49. poet mr. cummings'
50. Hair removal brand
51. German article
52. Facade
54. Frightening/supernatural
58. Insipid
61. Witch's brew pots
63. Bubbling in the pot
64. "Scream Queens" star Ms. Roberts
65. Feed fully
66. Devil costume accessories
67. Operative
68. Slangy 'sures'

DOWN
1. Crying sounds
2. "_ _ a traveller from an antique land..." - Percy Bysshe Shelley, Ozymandias
3. Horror movie emotion
4. Deep blue
5. Mil. rank
6. Heard in herds
7. "House on Haunted Hill" (1959) star Mr. Price
8. It repels vampires
9. Transport stuff
10. Sequence, for short
11. Lay grass
12. Heavy wts.
15. Mattress brand
18. Creepy crawler
22. "Leave!"
24. Vega constellation
26. Club's one-of-some
27. Botanical casings
28. Rob of 2011 mysterious TV movie "The Edge of the Garden"
29. Accessories with witches costumes
30. "Dead Calm" (1989) star Mr. Neill
31. Pants part
32. Smoke _ __ (Emulate Sherlock Holmes)
33. Fight
37. Association, variantly [abbr.]
38. Coffee alternative
39. Scarce
40. Begrudged
42. Shrieks
45. Solemn bell sounds
46. _ McKellen, star of 1983 frightful flick "The Keep"
47. The actress at #64-Across, to Julia
48. Power
52. Egotistical
53. Cut of beef
55. Part
56. __ to one's neck
57. Approximations [abbr.]
58. "Phooey!"
59. Blood-typing letters
60. _'easter
62. Set down

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will get the chance to make a breakthrough. However, you must be aware of your limits and you must not push yourself too hard. You don't have to work 24/7 to be a success.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Partners and colleagues may have the upper hand but that does not mean you are powerless. The planets suggest that if you believe in yourself you can make things happen.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You have done wrong but won't be punished for it — provided you admit your mistake. According to the planets your latest transgression is too big to ignore but still small enough to be forgiven.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Get out and about and have a good time. You will find it easy to meet new people and make new friends and, through them, to attract new opportunities. The more you socialize the more you will accomplish.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Spend money on yourself. You are entitled to enjoy what you've earned. Be the one who benefits, not those who like to sponge off you.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't try to get approval for what you are planning — you will make more of an impression if you just get on and do it. Strike out in a new direction — chances are you won't be travelling alone for long.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
This will be a rather quiet time by your standards but that's good. You have a lot to think about. The more you reflect upon your goals now the more likely it is you will reach them.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may be willing to make sacrifices above and beyond the call of duty but you can't do it all on your own. There are lots of people who think like you and share your vision — join forces with them.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You will deal well with challenges today. According to the planets you are determined to prove that you have what it takes to succeed — prove it to the world and yourself as well.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You are in no mood to let others dictate what you can and cannot think, and that's good, but remember that it works both ways: others are entitled to their opinions too.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
What you're offered may be tempting but are the likely returns worth the time and the energy you will have to put in? If the answer is in doubt it might be wise to pass up the offer.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You will be amazingly confident today, thanks to the Sun's link with your ruling planet Neptune. There is nothing you cannot accomplish if you believe in yourself. Romantically, too, this is a time for taking chances.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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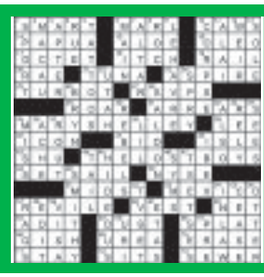

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4	2	6	7	1	5	3	9	8
6	1	7	9	8	2	5	4	3
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